

July 23, 2003
USSN. 09/913,317
Examiner: PARSLEY, DAVID J
Group A.U.: 3643

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Amendments to the Claims

1-42 (Cancelled)

43. (Currently amended) A method of preparing a plant cultivation, particularly a lawn, comprising, also in a different time sequence, the following operating steps:

preparing a seeding bed and introducing seeds therein;

dividing the seeding bed into sods;

cohesion treatment, whereby the resulting sod is not brittle, makes it possible to maintain a geometric shape and allows proper handling until a laying step is completed;

laying the sod and

moistening the sod before or after laying and regular watering afterwards, wherein said cohesion treatment is performed by laying a layer of adhesive directly on the entire outer surface of said sod, said adhesive being a natural adhesive.

44. (Previously added) The method according to claim 43, wherein, after drying, the sod is packaged in a suitable package for its preservation, storage and transport, preferably under vacuum.

45. (Previously added) The method according to claim 43, wherein said preparation of a seeding bed comprises dosage of said seeds and said layer of glue and the mixing thereof.

46. (Previously added) The method according to claim 43, wherein said preparation of a seeding bed is obtained by depositing successive layers of various components.

47. (Previously added) The method according to claim 43, wherein said division into sods occurs by molding a mix in a template, die or by extrusion in the chosen sod shape.

48. (Previously added) The method according to claim 43, wherein said division into sods occurs by die-cutting.

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49. (Previously added) The method according to claim 43, wherein said seed insertion occurs by implantation with a seeding machine.

50. (Previously added) The method according to claim 43, wherein said introduction of seeds occurs by depositing a layer of seeds.

51. (Previously added) The method according to claim 43, wherein said drying is nondestructive and reduces the percentage of humidity in the seeding bed to the point at which seed germination is no longer possible and tends to preserve the possibility of rapid future revival of microorganisms activity without degrading the natural and chemical organic substances present in the seeding bed.

52. (Previously added) The method according to claim 51, wherein said drying is performed by exposure in a ventilated greenhouse.

53. (Previously added) The method according to claim 51, wherein said drying is provided by means of low-temperature heat sources and by air change.

54. (Previously added) A sod for cultivating plants, obtained with the method according to claim 43, comprising a seeded seeding bed including a fertilizer and wrapped or at least held together by a suitable organic bonding agent so as to maintain its shape.

55. (Previously added) The sod according to claim 54, wherein said bonding agent is biodegradable.

56. (Previously added) The sod according to claim 55, wherein said bonding agent comprises at least one colloidal substance.

57. (Previously added) The sod according to claim 56, wherein said bonding agent comprises glue of vegetable or animal origin.

58. (Previously added) The sod according to claim 57, wherein said seeding bed comprises soil which includes mineral substances and at least one organic substance.

59. (Previously added) The sod according to claim 58, wherein said organic substance comprises one or more fertilizers.

60. (Previously added) The sod according to claim 59, comprising at least one selective herbicide which hinders the germination and growth of plants which are

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different from, and antagonists of, those whose growth is sought.

61. (Previously added) The sod according to claim 60, having a geometric shape which makes it possible to cover continuously the surface to be revegetated.

62.(Currently amended) A method of preparing a plant cultivation, particularly a lawn, comprising, also in a different time sequence, the following operating steps:

preparing a seeding bed and introducing seeds therein;

dividing the seeding bed into sods;

cohesion treatment, whereby the resulting sod is not brittle, makes it possible to maintain a geometric shape and allows proper handling until a laying step is completed;

laying the sod and

moistening the sod before or after laying and regular watering afterwards, a nondestructive drying step being also performed on the sod, wherein said cohesion treatment including the sod being mixed with [is performed by adding] a bonding agent in a chamber [during mixing].

63. (Previously added) The method according to claim 62, wherein, after drying, the sod is packaged in a suitable package for its preservation, storage and transport, preferably under vacuum.

64. (Previously added) The method according to claim 62, wherein said preparation of a seeding bed comprises dosage of said seeds and said layer of glue and the mixing thereof.

65. (Previously added) The method according to claim 62, wherein said preparation of a seeding bed is obtained by depositing successive layers of various components.

66. (Previously added) The method according to claim 62, wherein said division into sods occurs by molding a mix in a template, die or by extrusion in the chosen sod shape.

67. (Previously added) The method according to claim 62, wherein said division

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into sods occurs by die-cutting.

68. (Previously added) The method according to claim 62, wherein said seed insertion occurs by implantation with a seeding machine.

69. (Previously added) The method according to claim 62, wherein said introduction of seeds occurs by depositing a layer of seeds.

70. (Previously added) The method according to claim 62, wherein said drying is nondestructive and reduces the percentage of humidity in the seeding bed to the point at which seed germination is no longer possible and tends to preserve the possibility of rapid future revival of microorganisms activity without degrading the natural and chemical organic substances present in the seeding bed.

71. (Previously added) The method according to claim 70, wherein said drying is performed by exposure in a ventilated greenhouse.

72. (Previously added) The method according to claim 70, wherein said drying is provided by means of low-temperature heat sources and by air change.

73. (Previously added) A sod for cultivating plants, obtained with the method according to claim 62, comprising a seeded seeding bed including a fertilizer and wrapped or at least held together by a suitable organic bonding agent so as to maintain its shape.

74. (Previously added) The sod according to claim 73, wherein said bonding agent is biodegradable.

75. (Previously added) The sod according to claim 74, wherein said bonding agent comprises at least one colloidal substance.

76. (Previously added) The sod according to claim 75, wherein said bonding agent comprises glue of vegetable or animal origin.

77. (Previously added) The sod according to claim 76, wherein said seeding bed comprises soil which includes mineral substances and at least one organic substance.

78. (Previously added) The sod according to claim 77, wherein said organic substance comprises one or more fertilizers.

79. (Previously added) The sod according to claim 78, comprising at least one

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selective herbicide which hinders the germination and growth of plants which are different from, and antagonists of, those whose growth is sought.

80. (Previously added) The sod according to claim 79, having a geometric shape which makes it possible to cover continuously the surface to be revegetated.